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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/678,893	10/04/2000	ATSUSHI KAKIMOTO	35.C14845	7041
5514	7590	11/30/2005	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			JACOBS, LASHONDA T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2157	

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/678,893	KAKIMOTO, ATSUSHI
	Examiner LaShonda T. Jacobs	Art Unit 2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2005.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20 and 23 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20 and 23 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/10/05, 3/21/05</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .                                  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

This Office Action is in response to Applicant's Amendment/Request for Reconsideration filed on September 28, 2005. Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23 and 25-30 are present for further examination.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23 and 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Urevig et al (hereinafter, "Urevig", U.S. Pat. No. 6,154,787).

As per claims 1, 9 and 17, Urevig discloses an information processing apparatus for use in managing a network system provided with a plurality of information processing apparatuses, each of which is connected to a plurality of shared devices that can be used by at least one other information processing apparatus through the network, said information processing apparatus comprising:

- management means for managing the information of a first shared device managed by said information processing apparatus (col. 5, lines 14-25 and col. 6, lines 26-44);

- reception means for receiving, from another information processing apparatus, information of a second shared device used by the other information processing apparatus, the received information including information of in the second shared device comprising an updated status and a connected condition (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 26-44);
- recognition means for recognizing which one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by said reception means (col. 6, lines 26-44 and col. 9, lines 32-41);
- renewal means for updating the information on a status or connected condition of the second shared used in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means (col. 6, lines 26-44 and lines 53-59); and
- display means for displaying the information on the status or the connected condition of the second shared device updated by said renewal means and the information of the first shared device managed by said management means on a same screen of said display means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 39-44).

As per claims **2, 10 and 18**, Urevig discloses:

- wherein said reception means includes first reception control means for designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in the group (col. 6, lines 26-44 and col. 9, lines 32-41).

As per claims **3, 11 and 19**, Urevig discloses:

- wherein said reception means includes second reception control means for detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and

receiving the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus (col. 9, lines 32-41).

As per claims **4, 12 and 20**, Urevig discloses:

- wherein said reception means is adapted, at a log-on operation to the network system, to automatically receive the information of the plurality of shared devices present on the network system (col. 9, lines 32-41).

As per claims **7, 15 and 23**, Urevig discloses:

- wherein said renewal means is adapted, in response to the detection of a log-off operation of another information processing apparatus from the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus (col. 9, lines 32-41).

As per claims **25, 27 and 29**, Urevig discloses an information processing apparatus for communicating with at least one other information processing apparatus and a plurality of devices via a communication link, and managing a plurality of shared devices said apparatus comprising:

- management means for managing information of a first shared device managed by said information processing apparatus (col. 6, lines 26-34);
- obtaining means for obtaining information, from another information processing apparatus, information on a status or connected condition of a second shared device managed by other information processing apparatus (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 26-44);

- recognition means for recognizing which one of the first and second shared device has been updated regarding its status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by said obtaining means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 39-44); and
- display means for displaying, on a display of said information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of the second shared device, and information on a status or a connected condition of the first shared device in accordance with the information managed by said management means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 39-44).

As per claims **26, 28 and 30**, Urevig discloses:

- wherein said display means displays on the display of the information processing apparatus information on the status or the connected condition by icon changes (col. 5, lines 66-67 and col. 6, lines 1-9).

#### *Response to Arguments*

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims **1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23 and 25-30** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T. Jacobs whose telephone number is 571-272-4004. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M..

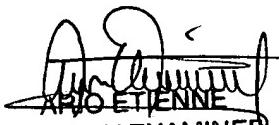
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShonda T Jacobs  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2157

ltj  
November 14, 2005



Ario Etienne  
PRIMARY EXAMINER